



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

Voting Members:

Brandon J. C. Elefante, Chair
Kymberly Marcos Pine, Vice Chair
Ikaika Anderson
Ernest Y. Martin
Trevor Ozawa

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2017

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM
2ND FLOOR, HONOLULU HALE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Note: A copy of the video of the full proceedings of this meeting may be requested by calling the City Clerk's Office at 768-5822.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare was called to order by Committee Chair Brandon Elefante at 9:09 a.m. Voting Members Anderson, Ozawa, and Pine were present at the meeting. Nonvoting Member, Council Chair Menor (temporary voting member for quorum), also attended the meeting. Voting Member Martin was excused from the meeting.

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Schmidtke, Senior Advisor to Committee Chair Elefante
April Coloretti, Legislative Analyst to Committee Chair Elefante
Alden Lum, Attorney, Office of Council Services
Kamakana Watanabe, Analyst, Office of Council Services
Leslie Chinn, Deputy, Department of the Corporation Counsel, assigned to the Committee
Gail Uehara, Council Committee Aide, Office of the City Clerk

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Committee Chair Elefante appointed Council Chair Menor as a voting member of the Committee to meet quorum.

The Committee held a moment of silence for the victims and their families of the bombing in Manchester, England.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee on Public Health, Safety and Welfare meeting held on May 2, 2017 were approved as circulated.

AYES: ANDERSON, MENOR (temporary voting member), ELEFANTE - 3.

NOES: None.

EXCUSED: OZAWA, MARTIN, PINE - 3.

ADDENDUM

Committee Chair Elefante announced that Resolution 17-145, posted on the addendum agenda, would be taken up at the end of the agenda.

FOR ACTION

1. RESOLUTION 17-124 – COMMITTEE REPORT 212

APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM H. HONG. Relating to the appointment of William H. Hong to serve on the Fire Commission of the City and County of Honolulu for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Administration/Others

William H. Hong, Appointee

Manuel P. Neves, Chief, Honolulu Fire Department

Mr. Hong provided information on his background and noted that he was a former member of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, Board of Directors.

Chief Neves spoke in support of the Resolution.

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The following individual provided testimony in support:

1. Ropati T. Soosenuu

Council Chair Menor and Committee Member Anderson voiced their appreciation for Mr. Hong's willingness to serve on the Fire Commission.

Resolution 17-124 reported out for adoption.

AYES: ANDERSON, MENOR (temporary voting member), ELEFANTE - 3.
NOES: None.
EXCUSED: OZAWA, MARTIN, PINE - 3.

Related communications:

MM-50 Office of the Mayor, transmitting draft resolution.
M-2827 Barbra J. Armentrout (support)

2. RESOLUTION 17-125 – COMMITTEE REPORT 213

REAPPOINTMENT OF GLENNA J. WONG. Relating to the reappointment of Glenna J. Wong to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Civil Defense of the City and County of Honolulu for a partial term to expire on March 31, 2018.

The following amendment was posted on the agenda:

PROPOSED CD1 TO RESOLUTION 17-125 (Submitted by Councilmember Elefante) - The CD1 (OCS2017-0526/5/12/2017 9:08 AM) makes the following amendments:

- A. Amends the title to amend the word "reappointment" to "appointment", as follows:

RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GLENNA J. WONG TO SERVE ON THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DEFENSE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

- B. Makes amendments pertaining to changes in the name of the department to which the Commission is attached and the title of its head, and other miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

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Administration/Others

Glenna J. Wong, Appointee
Melvin N. Kaku, Director, Department of Emergency Management

There was no public testimony.

Ms. Wong provided information on her background.

Director Kaku spoke in support of the Resolution.

Resolution 17-125 amended to CD1 and reported out for adoption.

AYES: ANDERSON, MENOR (temporary voting member), ELEFANTE - 3.
NOES: None.
EXCUSED: OZAWA, MARTIN, PINE - 3.

Related communication:

MM-51 Office of the Mayor, transmitting draft resolution.

3. BILL 6 (2017), CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 211

MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Regulating the use of mobile electronic devices by certain persons.

The following amendment was posted on the agenda:

CD2 TO BILL 6 (2017), CD1 (Submitted by Councilmember Elefante) - The proposed CD2 (OCS2017-0405/4/12/2017 3:50 PM) makes the following amendments:

1. Deletes the prohibition against operating a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device because this prohibition is now set forth in HRS Section 291C-137. Also deletes other provisions of ROH Section 15-24.23 that relate to motor vehicles and the operation thereof.
2. Deletes the word "person" from subsection (a) and replaces it with the word "pedestrian."

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3. Amends the definition of "Emergency responders" by deleting the phrase "civil defense workers" and replacing it with "emergency management workers." This mirrors the definition in HRS Section 291C-137(e).
4. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Administration/Others

Thomas Taflinger, Captain, Traffic Division, Honolulu Police Department

There was no public testimony.

Committee Chair Elefante noted that the Committee amended the Bill to the posted CD2 version at its May 2, 2017 meeting and further action was deferred.

Captain Taflinger testified in support of the Bill with the amendments. He also noted that pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility between pedestrians and motorists.

In response to the Committee Chair's questions, Captain Taflinger stated that the Bill was enforceable and explained the different outreach methods that could be used to educate the public about the measure.

Bill 6 (2017), CD1 amended to CD2 (OCS2017-0405/4/12/2017 3:50 PM) and reported out for passage on third reading.

AYES: ANDERSON, MENOR (temporary voting member), ELEFANTE - 3.
NOES: None.
EXCUSED: OZAWA, MARTIN, PINE - 3.

Related communication:

M-2825 Shannon Ball (oppose)

ADDENDUM

At this juncture, Committee Chair Elefante took up the addendum agenda item.

1. RESOLUTION 17-145 – COMMITTEE REPORT 214

ESTABLISH A HOMELESS TASK FORCE. Requesting City and State officials to work collaboratively to establish a homeless task force with the goal of improving and better coordinating enforcement activities relating to unlawful encampments.

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The following amendment was circulated at the meeting:

PROPOSED CD1 TO RESOLUTION 17-145 (Submitted by Councilmember Elefante) - The proposed CD1 (OCS2017-0575/5/23/2017 8:59 AM) makes the following amendments:

- A. Amends the 2nd BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to also request that the Mayor or Managing Director invite an individual who represents the Mayor's Office of Housing to serve on the task force.
- B. Amends the BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED clause by changing "the Police Chief" to "the Chief of the Honolulu Police Department".
- C. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Administration/Others

Marc Alexander, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Housing
Allan Nagata, Major, District 1 Commander, Honolulu Police Department

Executive Director Alexander testified in support of the intent of Resolution 17-145. He noted that the mission of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) is to prevent and end homelessness in Hawaii through the coordination of the government, private entities, community and homeless service providers and persons experiencing homelessness statewide, as detailed in Communication MM-67. The Executive Director also explained that the Mayor's sub-cabinet on housing and homelessness uses a "barrier-busting" rules approach to provide attractive shelters.

A discussion ensued regarding the following:

- A cost analysis on dealing with the homelessness issue.
- The homeless sentiments on shelters and permanent housing.
- A brief explanation on providing mental health outreach.

The following individuals testified:

1. Ropati T. Soosenuu (support) (M-2826)
2. Roy Nakamura (comments)
3. Calvin Hulihee (comments)

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Committee Member Ozawa stated that he introduced the Resolution because of his frustration with the current process for removing unlawful encampments. He would like to formalize working relationships and improve efficiency among State and City agencies to ensure that the homeless situation on Oahu is resolved.

In response to Committee Member Ozawa's inquiries, the Executive Director stated that he would be willing to meet with the Committee Member or his staff to identify the unlawful encampment areas and work towards a solution.

Committee Chair Elefante commented on the importance for collaboration among Federal, State and City agencies to address the homeless issue.

Resolution 17-145 amended to CD1 and reported out for adoption.

AYES: ANDERSON, OZAWA, PINE, ELEFANTE - 4.

NOES: None.

EXCUSED: MARTIN - 1.

Related communication:

MM-67 Marc Alexander, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Housing, submitting Report on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness, December 2016.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

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DATE APPROVED

June 27, 2017